



NEWS RELEASE



MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

LLWC 440 S. 8th St., Ste. 100 Lincoln NE 68508 (402) 441-7716

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

August 10, 2005

Judith Hart, director, Angels Theatre Co., 474-2206

Bonnie Coffey, LLWC director, 441-8695

Diane Mullins, LLWC Public Info Specialist, 441-7717

Lisa Good, director, NCSW, 477-2039

Tari Hendrickson Sweeney, YWCA, 434-3494, ext. 115

EQUALITY DAY EVENTS REFLECT NEBRASKAN WOMEN'S JOURNEY

Events recognize 85th anniversary of the Woman's Suffrage Movement

The observance of Women's Equality Day is celebrated annually on August 26th in recognition of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. It calls attention to the historical struggles of the Women's Suffrage Movement and women's continuing efforts to reach full equality in today's modern society. Women's Equality Day 2005 marks the 85th anniversary of women's right to vote.

In recognition of Women's Equality Day, five agencies have collaborated to offer the general public an opportunity to learn more about the historical impact of the Woman's Suffrage Movement, especially to Nebraskan women. Special event parking is available for \$2.00 in the Haymarket Garage, 9th and Q Street. Proof of attendance to the performance is required to get the special discount rate.

The Women's Equality Day events are co-sponsored by the Angels Theatre Company, League of Women Voters (LWV), Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC), Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and YWCA of Lincoln.

- The event begins 3 p.m. at the State Capitol Rotunda, second floor, as Governor Dave Heineman presents NCSW's **Woman of Distinction Award** to Kathy Campbell, former Lancaster County Commissioner, former LLWC Commissioner and executive vice president of Cedar's Home for Children Foundation. NCSW will also recognize other outstanding women across the state for their achievements.
- A presentation of Nebraska's participation in the struggle for women's right to vote, ***What's Unique About the Suffrage Movement in Nebraska?***, will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the YWCA Lincoln, 1432 N St. The discussion will be presented by University of Nebraska scholars, Whitney Douglas and Eric Turley.
- The **Eighth Street IronWorks Restaurant**, 301 N. 8th St., will host a special "Equality Day" dinner menu for event participants at the cost of \$15 per person. For reservations, call the restaurant at 435-5477.
- Lobby exhibits focusing on the national and regional suffrage movement will be on display at The Loft at the Mill, third floor, 8th and P St., from 6:30-7:30 p.m. On display is also a collection of original artifacts and memorabilia actually used during the early 1900's Suffrage Movement.

- The Angels Theatre Company performs *The Fighting Days*, by Wendy Lill, a play set in Winnipeg, Canada from 1910 to 1917 that focuses on the life and work of fictional character Francis Beynon, a Manitoba journalist and political activist struggling to help women gain the vote. Performances are located at The Loft at the Mill, 8th and P Streets. General admission price is \$15 and \$7 for students/seniors. Reserve seats online at www.angelscompany.org or call 474-2206. The performance runs from Aug. 25 -28 and Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 with a curtain time set at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the Sept. 2 performance beginning at 9:30 p.m.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: At the request of Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY), the U.S. Congress in 1971 designated August 26th as “Women’s Equality Day.” This date was the culmination of a 72-year massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world’s first Women’s Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. On Aug. 26th, 1920, the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was certified as part of the U.S. Constitution. Referred to as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, it states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." To learn more about the history of women’s campaign to win the vote, and about the women’s rights movement in general, visit the national Women’s History Project online at www.nwhp.org.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women’s Commission was formed in 1976 to “work toward eliminating social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their present and future roles in the family, the labor force, education and society in general.”